2017 APENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Question 2

2017 APENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Question 2

(Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

In the passage below, from *The Adventures of Peregrine Pickle* (1751) by Tobias Smollett, Mr. Pickle encounters Godfrey Gauntlet, the brother of his beloved Emilia. Consider how the two men confront their own uncontrolled emotions and yet attempt to abide by their social norms. In a well-developed essay, analyze how the author explores the complex interplay between emotions and social propriety in the passage. You may wish to consider such literary techniques as dialogue, narrative pace, and tone.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| “Mr. Pickle, you have carried on a correspondence | 35 | looked upon in the army as an expert swordsman, |
| with my sister for some time, and I should be glad to |  | and that if Mr. Pickle had not made that science his |
| know the nature of it.” To this question our lover |  | particular study, they should be upon a more equal |
| Line replied, "Sir, I should be glad to know what title you |  | footing in using pistols. Peregrine was too much |
| 5 have to demand that satisfaction?”—“Sir,” answered |  | incensed to thank him for his plain dealing, and |
| the other, "I demand it in the capacity of a brother, | 40 | too confident of his own skill to relish the other' s |
| jealous of his own honour, as well as of his sister's |  | proposal, which he accordingly rejected: then, |
| reputation; and if your intentions are honourable, you |  | drawing his sword, he observed, that were he to treat |
| will not refuse it.”—“Sir,” said Peregrine, “I am not |  | Mr. Gauntlet according to his deserts, he would order |
| 10 at present disposed to appeal to your opinion for the |  | his man to punish his audacity with a horsewhip. |
| rectitude of my intentions: and I think you assume a | 45 | Exasperated at this expression, which he considered |
| little too much importance, in pretending to judge my |  | an indelible affront, he made no reply, but attacked |
| conduct.”—“Sir,” replied the soldier, “I pretend to |  | his adversary with equal ferocity and address. The |
| judge the conduct of every man who interferes with |  | youth parried his first and second thrust, but received |
| 15 my concerns, and even to chastise him, if I think he |  | the third in the outside of his sword-arm. Though the |
| acts amiss.”—“Chastise!” cried the youth, with | 50 | wound was superficial, he was transported with rage |
| indignation in his looks, “sure you dare not apply that |  | at the sight of his own blood, and returned the assault |
| term to me?”—“You are mistaken,” said Godfrey; |  | with such fury and precipitation, that Gauntlet, loath |
| “I dare do anything that becomes the character of a |  | to take advantage of his unguarded heat, stood upon |
| 20 gentleman.”—“Gentleman, God wot!” replied the |  | the defensive. In the second lunge, Peregrine's |
| other, looking contemptuously at his equipage,1 | 55 | weapon entering a kind of network in the shell of |
| which was none of the most superb, “a very pretty |  | Godfrey's sword, the blade snapped in two, and left |
| gentleman, truly!” |  | him at the mercy of the soldier, who, far from making |
| The soldier's wrath was inflamed by this ironical |  | an insolent use of the victory he had gained, put up |
| 25 repetition, the contempt of which his conscious |  | his Toledo with great deliberation, like a man who |
| poverty made him feel; and he called his antagonist | 60 | had been used to that kind of rencounters,2 and |
| presumptuous boy, insolent upstart, and with other |  | observed that such a blade as Peregrine's was not to |
| epithets, which Perry retorted with great bitterness. |  | be trusted with a man's life: then advising the owner |
| A formal challenge having passed between them, they |  | to treat a gentleman in distress with more respect for |
| 30 alighted at the first inn, and walked into the next field, |  | the future, he slipped on his boots, and with sullen |
| in order to decide their quarrel by the sword. Having pitched upon the spot, helped to pull off each other's | 65 | dignity of demeanour stalked back to the inn. |
| boots, and laid aside their coats and waistcoats,  Mr. Gauntlet told his opponent, that he himself was |  | 1. equipage: carriage and horse with attendants  2. rencounters: a battle, skirmish, or duel |

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.